



## Bellwether Magazine

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Volume 1  
Number 41 *Fall/Winter 1997*

Article 16

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10-1-1997

# Dr. Delluva Honored

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## New Concepts In Horse Behavior

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experience and become reluctant to breed. They may also begin to dismount early, before breeding is completed, seemingly in anticipation of the rush to dismount and leave. If the mare is simply allowed some mobility she typically will take care of the dismount

mare to move. The mare needn't be turned loose with the stallion but perhaps tied on a loose tether from a pole in the middle of a paddock so that she feels as though she has the room to maneuver.

For the stallion with virtually no libido or low sperm count without an

of stallions may impose bachelor status on breeding stallions. If the stallion does not seem interested at the time of breeding lead him to the mare's head and allow some natural equine exchange to take place. This is especially useful for the novice breeding stallion. When all else fails consider turning the stallion and mares out together. Once a stallion puts it all together and has one or two good experiences he can then be brought back to hand-breeding. It is a fact that most stallions and jacks exhibit much more sexual endurance and fertility when breeding at liberty than when hand-bred. Dr. McDonnell states, "Stallions and jacks at pasture breed as often as every one or two hours throughout the day and night with excellent sustained fertility. For most hand-bred stallions libido and fertility diminish with breeding schedules of more than once or twice per day."

Dr. McDonnell's ongoing observational study of equid behavior is a Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation project. Collaborators in this research include academic and practicing equine clinicians and scientists from throughout the world. Students assisting with this work include Havemeyer Foundation Summer Veterinary Research Trainees, graduate students, middle and high school biology students, veterinary technician and nursing students, and community volunteers. 🐾

M.B.



*Stallion interacting with foal.*

by walking forward and allowing the stallion to slide off her back slowly and gently. Providing a cushioned surface with good footing, particularly around a "dummy mount," can also help. And above all, adjusting handling practices to provide, as Dr. McDonnell puts it, "...gentle, respectful accommodation of the stallion's needs or limitations can resolve or avoid most problems".

Dr. McDonnell does not advocate that all breeding operations revert to pasture breeding. She explains, "Certainly, when you have a million dollar mare and a stallion worth even millions more you do not want to take any chances." However, she does encourage breeders with horses that have reproductive behavior problems to take a look at what works in nature and carefully consider applying it in their own operation. For the "rogue mare" that readily explodes before the stallion has even mounted her, consider less restraint and give some room for the

identifiable physical cause, consider simply housing him in the barn with mares. Just being in close proximity for several months is likely to produce a positive outcome. According to Dr. McDonnell data is accumulating which indicates that traditional group housing

### Dr. Delluva Honored



Dr. Adelaide Delluva, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, was honored with a party by the Department of Animal Biology on the occasion of her 80th birthday and presented with a miniature bronze of Benjamin Franklin. Dr. Delluva earned her Ph.D. degree in biochemistry in 1946 and joined the faculty in the Medical School. There she taught biochemistry to veterinary students, among others. In 1969 she joined the faculty at the School of Veterinary Medicine as assistant professor of biochemistry and was appointed professor in 1978. Dr. Delluva served on many School and University committees and still is involved in committee work. She took a keen interest in the students and their welfare and each December is a great "donating" and "bidding" presence at the SCAVMA auction.